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Amendment
Attorney Docket No. S63.2N-11056-US03

Amendments To The Claims:

Claims 1-60. (canceled)

112 Claim 61. (currently amended) A stent formed from an open-ended tube having a first end and a second end and a midpoint therebetween, the stent having tube having a wall with a multiplicity of holes formed therethrough between the first and second ends, the holes having been formed by removal of material from the wall, the tubular wall defined by a plurality of struts, each of the holes completely bounded by a plurality of interconnected struts, interconnections between each of the struts bounding a hole being of the same material as the struts; each of said struts having a cross-section of substantially of the shape of an erythrocyte of oval shape with a short diameter corresponding substantially to the thickness of said wall so that the long sides of the oval lie at the outside and the inside of the tube wall at the respective strut.

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Claims 62-63. (canceled)

61 Claim 64. (previously presented) The stent of claim 61, wherein said struts have a serpentine configuration.

61 Claim 65. (currently amended) A stent having a first end and a second end, the stent comprising an open-ended elongate tube having a generally circumferential wall, there being a multiplicity of interconnected curvilinear struts formed in the wall of said tube, the struts disposed about a multiplicity of through-holes in said wall, each of said through-holes being bounded completely by struts, interconnections between struts bounding a through-hole being of the same material as the struts; each of said struts having an oval a substantially erythrocyte shaped cross-section with a short diameter corresponding substantially to the thickness of said wall.

Claim 66-67. (canceled)

61 Claim 68. (previously presented) The stent of claim 65, wherein said struts are serpentine.

112 Claim 69. (previously presented) The stent of claim 61 further comprising a plurality of serpentine bands, each of the serpentine bands being a continuous, closed structure which extends about the circumference of the stent.

61 Claim 70. (previously presented) The stent of claim 69 wherein at least some of the serpentine bands extending about the circumference of the stent abut one another.

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61 Claim 71.(previously presented) The stent of claim 70 wherein some adjacent serpentine bands are connected to one another via a connector which extends between the adjacent serpentine bands.

F 1 *Claim 72.(previously presented)* The stent of claim 69 having a taper.

72 Claim 73.(previously presented) The stent of claim 61 having a taper.

F 1 *Claim 74.(previously presented)* The stent of claim 72 wherein the inner diameter of the stent is constant over the length of the stent and the outer diameter has a taper.

74 Claim 75.(previously presented) The stent of claim 73 wherein the inner diameter of the stent is constant over the length of the stent and the outer diameter has a taper.

61 Claim 76.(previously presented) The stent of claim 65 further comprising a plurality of serpentine bands, each of the serpentine bands being a continuous, closed structure which extends about the circumference of the stent.

61 Claim 77.(previously presented) The stent of claim 76 wherein at least some of the serpentine bands extending about the circumference of the stent abut one another.

61 Claim 78.(previously presented) The stent of claim 77 wherein some adjacent serpentine bands are connected to one another via a connector which extends between the adjacent serpentine bands.

F 1 72 Claim 79.(previously presented) The stent of claim 76 having a taper.

F 1 72 Claim 80.(previously presented) The stent of claim 65 having a taper.

Cont 74 Claim 81.(previously presented) The stent of claim 79 wherein the inner diameter of the stent is constant over the length of the stent and the outer diameter has a taper.

74 Claim 82.(previously presented) The stent of claim 80 wherein the inner diameter of the stent is constant over the length of the stent and the outer diameter has a taper.

Claim 83.(withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a stent comprising the steps of:
 providing a tube having a wall;

removing material from the wall of the tube so as to form a plurality of struts in the wall, the struts having an oval cross-section.

Claim 84.(withdrawn) The method of claim 83 wherein the struts are arranged in serpentine configurations.

72 Claim 85. (New) An unexpanded stent having a longitudinal axis and formed from an open-

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ended tube having a first end and a second end and a midpoint therebetween, the tube having a wall with a multiplicity of holes formed therethrough between the first and second ends, the tubular wall defined by a plurality of struts, the stent tapering from the midpoint to at least one end of the stent at a substantially constant slope in relation to the longitudinal axis.